Communities First Flintshire



Debbie Barker LIFT Mentor & Kate Thew Lead Officers Prosperity







Communities First

Communities First is a Welsh Government community focussed tackling poverty programme.

The Programme supports projects and initiatives which help to narrow the economic, health and the education and skills gaps between our most deprived and more affluent communities.



Activities are covered under 3 themes:

- □ Learning
- □ Health
- Prosperous

Learning Activities

- Family Learning Signature
- STEM
- Financial Literacy
- Community training including; Food Hygiene, First Aid, Health & Safety etc.



Health Activities

- Health & Wellbeing Courses
- Learning for Health
- Social Inclusion
- Mindfulness.



Prosperous Communities:

- Job Clubs
- Jobs, Skills & Training Events
- Local Labour Market Initiative
- Financial Literacy (Credit Union)
- Enterprise Club
- Dragons' Den
- Flintshire Business Entrepreneur Network
- LIFT



Job Clubs:

- Sessions are held on a weekly basis across 2 clusters at various community locations.
- □ Sessions offer help and support with writing a CV, Job Applications and accessing the Universal Jobmatch.
- Work clubs also offer a chance to find out about learning opportunities and activities taking place in the community.







Jobs, Skills & Training Events

- □ Jobs, Skills & Training events take place annually in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales.
- Over 30 local employers and organisations were present with current vacancies.
- ☐ In 2015 over 700 people attended the event and 157 individuals gained employment as a result of this.
- □ The next Jobs Event will be held Thursday 14th
 April 2016 at The Civic Hall, Connah's Quay.







Local Labour Market Initiative

- Establishing links with local businesses identifying vacancies and connecting local people directly to employment opportunities.
- Communities First has made direct links with major retailers including Primark, Iceland, Marston's and Home Bargains to bring opportunities direct to local people.
- In partnership developed specific training programmes including telephone techniques, competency based interviewing and first impressions courses for local people.

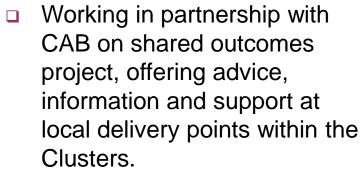




Financial Literacy

- Increasing the number of residents accessing the All Flintshire Credit Union within key local locations and schools, enabling community members to develop skills in money management, establishing the habit of saving regularly and have access to affordable finance.
- CAB on shared outcomes project, offering advice, information and support at Clusters.









Business Entrepreneur Network

- Enterprise Club
- Open to all ages
- Open programme
- Partnership working
- Dragon's Den Cymru
- Volunteer
- BusinessEntrepreneurs
- Mentoring







What's Next...

- Develop stronger links with local businesses.
- Continue to develop partnership working.
- Continue support for entrepreneurs from idea to trading.
- Continued support to job seekers furthest from the labour market.

If you would like further information on any Flintshire Communities First Projects/ Activities please contact;

East Team – 01244 846090 West Team – 01352 754861
(Based in John Summers' (Based in Parkfields Mold)

(Based in John Summers' Community Campus Shotton)





What is Lift?



- Lift is a Welsh Government initiative, under the umbrella of Communities First which is a tackling poverty programme, and is based in the top 10% most deprived areas of Wales.
- Lift's role is to work with people who have been in long term unemployment and live in a workless households within the Communities First areas of Flintshire.
- Although there are 52 Communities First clusters in Wales there are only 9 Lift areas, with only 2 of those being based in North Wales.



How we work?



- Lift Mentors work on a 121 intense basis with clients to look at the barriers they may be facing on getting back into employment. This can range from numeracy and literacy issues, to no ID and lack of qualifications and experience.
- We do a mapping exercise with each client to ascertain what skills and qualifications they have, and where the gaps may present themselves, from this we create an action plan with the client to start to overcome some of the barriers that they are facing, and to steer them down the employment path they would like to take.
- We work at the clients pace to build a trustful working relationship, to help build the client's confidence so that when we put them on training or a work placement, they feel confident and comfortable in a working environment.



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